



# UCFT NEWSLETTER

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## ST. JOHNS STRIKE by Sid Ingerman

The Executive Board of Local 1570 calls on its membership and all other graduate students in the academic job market to refuse to consider employment at St. Johns University in New York City.

St. Johns, the largest Catholic university in the United States, has been struck by the United Federation of College Teachers - the AFT college division - over the issue of academic freedom and the right of its Faculty to organize.

The walkout was called after 31 professors, many of them priests; many of them with contracts, had been summarily fired last month. Father James O'Reilly, president of the AFT local at St. Johns, has charged that faculty members at St. Johns now work "in an environment of fear."

St. Johns has thus far refused to negotiate with the union and has rebuffed two attempts by New York City Labor Commissioner James McFadden to provide ways to mediate the dispute. The strike has received support from the leadership of the St. Johns chapter of the AAUP, city officials in New York, and civil rights leaders such as Bayard Rustin.

In calling for its boycott of job openings at St. Johns until the strike is settled the Local 1570 Executive Board contends that the fight of St. Johns faculty members is an important step in efforts of academic personnel throughout the country to defend their rights and to be able to positively influence the quality and character of their professional performance in rapidly growing American universities.

On January 10, the Executive Board of Local 1474 issued the following statement on the St. Johns strike: "The Berkeley University Teacher's Union,

Local 1474, American Federation of Teachers, wishes to indicate its full and enthusiastic support of the teachers who are striking against St. Johns University in New York. In striking for academic freedom and the right of the faculty to organize, the teachers of St. Johns reiterate two basic tenets of teacher professionalism: 1. That academic freedom is a working condition, and that the lack of, or the corruption of academic freedom is the denial, by a school administration, of the professional competence of teachers. 2. That union organization provides one of the few methods teachers have of effectively influencing their professional environments, and of progressively improving the course of education; and that to deny organizing rights to teachers is to display an ignorance of or an opposition to basic democratic tradition."

## MEETINGS

A general membership meeting of Local 1474 will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday, January 18, in 155 Dwinelle Hall. The meeting will include many important items of business, and all members and interested non-members are urged to attend.

At 5:00pm on Wednesday, January 26 in room B-2 of the Golden Bear Restaurant, a general membership meeting of the Local 1474 Library Chapter will be held, at which all ballots for the current election will be collected. The meeting will include dinner, and all those attending are to purchase their dinners from either the terrace or downstairs cafeteria facilities, and then proceed to room B-2.

A very important general membership meeting of Local 1570 will be held at 4:00pm on Wednesday, February 9, and

the location will be announced in the next newsletter, at Sather Gate, and in the Daily Californian. The meeting will include the introduction of all the individuals nominated for office in the current election, a major vote on a dues increase, and an address by the AFT lobbyist on the subject of the TA cutback and suggested legislative tactics. It will also, incidentally, mark approximately the first anniversary of Local 1570, which was chartered in February of 1965.

#### TEACHING JOBS

During the recent CFT convention, a somewhat desperate request was made of the two UC locals to provide teachers for the Grape Strikers in Delano. Through the Farm Workers Opportunity Project, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, teaching jobs are available at \$6 hourly, for the purpose of teaching reading and writing to the members of both unions involved in the strike. There are no requirements, except willingness, for the teaching positions, and any and all hours are available, part time to full time. Interested persons should contact Keith Nason at 849-0944.

#### PARTY

A grand opening and office warming party has been announced for the new AFT office at 2901 San Pablo Avenue in Berkeley (corner Russell). The office is intended to serve the AFT members and locals in the Bay Area and in all of Northern California, and will be open from 1:00pm to 4:00pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The office warming party will be held from 1-5pm on Saturday, January 15. All AFT members are urged to attend, and to bring any of the following furniture and equipment to be used in furnishing the office: large tables, desk chairs, desks, lounge chairs, coffee table, coffee maker, table lamps, floor lamps, rugs, filing cabinets, shelves, book cases, etc. Admission will be 25¢, and refreshments will be served. The office is sponsored by the California Federation of Teachers, the Bay Area Council,

and Oakland Local 711.

#### DUES

Both AFT locals on campus have a dues problem, although the members of Local 1474 present the greater difficulty. It is important to understand that it takes a great deal of time and money to collect delinquent dues from union members, not to mention the difficulties of maintaining coverage by AFT insurance groups when a member has been dropped from AFT membership for dues delinquency.

Local 1474 has recently developed a delinquent dues statement form which will soon be mailed to all members, and it is hoped that payment will be immediate. Furthermore, it should be noted that the organizational potential available from a full time organizer is tremendous, but not when such an individual must spend most of his time working as a collection agent. To make your dues payment easier, please pay in advance, or write post-dated checks for each of the coming months. Send your dues to the appropriate treasurer:

Local 1474 Oswaldo Asturias  
Education Dept.

Local 1570 Arnold Insel  
Math Dept.

#### FORMER 1570 OFFICER IN ILWU

Barry Silverman, the first treasurer of Local 1570, is now employed as a Research Associate by the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union in their San Francisco office. When we met Barry at the recent AFL-CIO convention, he was enthusiastic about his job, at which he has been working for several months, and he asked us to convey his regards to the members of Local 1570. Incidentally, former president Mike Rabbitt is now employed as an Assistant Professor of Economics at San Jose State, while he completes his degree here at UC, and he is active in the AFT Local at SJ State.



## 1570 WINTER ELECTIONS

by Bob Hyman

1. Nominations shall be open from 6 December to 14 January 1966. (Editor's note: date for closing of nominations has been extended, and closing date will be announced in the next newsletter) Nominations shall be open for the following offices: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Academic Affairs Chairman, Community Affairs Chairman, Grievances Committee Chairman, Election and Credentials Chairman, Trustees (3), and Delegates to the Alameda Central Labor Council (2).

2. Elections shall be announced in a general membership meeting (9 February, 1966).

3. Elections shall be held 23-24 February, 1966. The Elections Committee shall give notice of the election, together with polling places and times, at the general membership meeting at which nominations and elections are announced, in the union newsletter, and if possible, in the Daily Californian. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Persons wishing to vote must present a valid UC registration card or AFT membership card at the polling place. Eligible voters shall be members in good standing at least two weeks prior to the date of the election--the Elections Committee shall interpret this to mean payment of dues for January or February 1966, provided that such payment is received by the treasurer prior to two weeks before the date of the election (10 February 1966). The treasurer shall submit a list of eligible members to the Elections Committee at least three days before the date of the election; this list shall be the final authority on matters of eligibility.

4. Elections shall be by a majority of the votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority, runoff elections will be held between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes. This election shall be held 3 March 1966. If no runoff is necessary but a separate election for committee chairmen and delegates to ACLC is necessary (Article 11, Sec.4) this election shall be held 3 March 1966. If both a runoff and a separate election for committee chairmen is necessary, the

latter shall be held 10 March 1966 (see Article 11, Sec. 4).

5. Counting of ballots shall be done by the Elections Committee. The counting shall be open to any member. Challenge of ballots must be made at the time ballots are counted; decisions of the Elections Committee regarding counting of ballots and other aspects of this election shall be final unless overruled by the Council of Delegates.

## CFT ANNUAL CONVENTION

The convention of the California Federation of Teachers was held in San Jose during the recent academic holiday, from December 26 through December 29. Keith Nason from 1474 and Ernie Haberkern from 1570 were the two UCFT delegates to the convention, and attended all the sessions. Their role in the convention was an important one, as the UCFT delegations were unexpected, and their combined 14 votes (1570 is the third largest local in California) were the deciding factor in all close voting.

This was an election year for the CFT, and the office of president was hotly contested. However, a close friend of the two Berkeley Campus Locals, and a member of the San Francisco Federation of Teachers, was elected by a plurality of less than 10 votes. The new president, Marshall Axelrod, appointed Miles Meyers of the Oakland Federation of Teachers as his junior vice president, and Farrel Broslawsky of the CFT's largest local (1021 of Los Angeles) remained to become the CFT senior vice president.

The tone of the convention was dynamic, militant, and inspiring, with discussions by Al Shanker, president of Local 2 in New York City, by Assemblymen Willie Brown (S-F) and Mervyn Dymally (L.A.), Delores Huerta of the Farm Workers Association in Delano, CFT attorney Victor Van Bourg, San Jose attorney John Thorne, and William Roher, educational psychologist at UC Berkeley.

## JOB OPENING

There is a job opening for the position of research director of the California Federation of Labor. If interested, call Bob Flanagan at the Institute of Industrial Relations, ext. 4740.

#### TA CUTBACK

Beginning in February, Local 1470 will launch a major drive to secure the reallocation of funds out from the TA and tuition waiver budgets, and to oppose impending legislation calling for resident tuition at UC. These efforts, which are being planned now and are being coordinated with the AFT lobbyist, will involve several trips to Sacramento by members of the union. Any member, then, of either local, who is interested in this project, should call Keith Nason at 849-0944 and leave his name. Tactics in Sacramento will include testimony before the appropriate committees and private discussions with individual legislators.

#### BOOKSTORE DISCOUNT

(reprinted from UCFT newsletter, Vol 1, No 1)

We have secured a 10% discount for all AFT members at Cody's Books, an excellent paperback book store located at the Corner of Telegraph and Haste. The discount can be obtained by showing your membership card.

#### AFT PRESCRIPTION SERVICE

The AFT has announced the beginning of an AFT prescription service which offers prescription drugs to AFT members by mail, and at considerable savings. The service also advertises low prices on vitamins, from all major companies, and excludes only narcotics from their extensive list. A price list and further information are available from Keith Nason at 849-0944. (reprinted from UCFT newsletter, Vol 1, No 3)

#### JOB OPENING

There is a job opening as assistant to the Research Director of the International Rubber Worker's Union in Akron, Ohio. The qualification is either a master's degree, or a bachelor's degree with some experience with organized labor. The annual salary will be between \$8500 and \$12000. If interested, contact Sid Ingberman at ext. 2898 or at his home 525-6074.